

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /032 W

-----025110 012056Z /75

R 011345Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5466

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5412

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, US, CI

SUBJ: MORE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF FREI'S VISIT

1. EDUARDO FREI MUST BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON DURING MAY. ONCE AGAIN IN US WIRE SERVICE REPORT HAS PUT HIM ON THE SPOT; THIS TIME HE FELT OBLIGED TO ISSUE A FORMAL DENIAL.

2. A JUNE 28 UPI WASHINGTON ITEM REFERRING TO MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON BY ARGENTINE SENATOR SOLARI YRIGOYEN CONTAINED THREE PARAGRAPHS REGARDING THE FREI AND ALMEYDA TRIPS A MONTH EARLIER. AFTER REFERRING TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S MEETING WITH ALMEYDA, THE STORY SAID QUOTE A FEW DAYS BEFORE, CHRISTOPHER HAD ACCOMPANIED EX-PRESIDENT FREI TO THE WHITE HOUSE INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. LATER NEWSMEN HEARD THAT BOTH MEETINGS (I.E. ALMEYDA/CHRISTOPHER AND FREI/MONDALE) SOUGHT A SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CHILEAN SITUATION THROUGH A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT LED BY FREI. UNQUOTE.

3. UNDER A JUNE 29 SANTIAGO DATELINE, AFP REPORTED FREI'S EMPHATIC DENIAL THAT HE HAD EVER MET CHRISTOPHER AND HIS INSISTENCE THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PLANNING FOR FREI TO HEAD A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. FREI IS QUOTED AS SAYING "SUCH REPORTS, BESIDES BEING CRUDE ("TORPE"), ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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ABSOLUTE LIES."

4. THE UPI STORY HAS NOT MADE MUCH OF A SPLASH HERE. OFFICIAL DENIALS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE USG IS NOT STUDYING ALTERNATIVES TO THE GOC AND DOES NOT PLAN TO INTERFERE IN CHILEAN DOMESTIC POLITICS. FREI HIMSELF HAS EXPRESSED HIS

TOTAL OPPOSITION TO US INVOLVEMENT (SANTIAGO 5282) AND HAS PUBLICLY DENIED US INTERVENTION IN GENERAL TERMS AND THE SPECIFIC ANGLE THAT FREI IS INVOLVED.

5. COMMENT: CLEARLY, US NEW SERVICES ARE BEING BACKGROUNDED IN WASHINGTON AND/OR NEW YORK THAT THE USG IS SPONSORING A COALITION OF POLITICAL PARTIES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, AND THAT EX-PRESIDENT FREI IS FULLY INVOLVED. THE UPI STORY DID NOT EVEN GET THE PUBLIC DETAILS RIGHT -- FREI HAS NO CONTACT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER. MOREOVER, THE UP VERSION OF THE STORY DID NOT SQUARE WITH OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE MONDALE-FREI MEETING, NO DOES IT AGREE WITH FREI'S DESCRIPTION TO ME OF HIS MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.  
BOYATT

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009